

WISCONSIN CORONERS and MEDICAL EXAMINERS ASSOCIATION  
- GUIDELINES FOR CASE ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT -

<b>Manner of Death or Special Circumstances</b>	<b>Autopsy</b>	<b>Lab Tests</b>	<b>X-rays</b>	<b>Photos</b>	<b>Detective</b>	<b>District Attorney</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Obvious or Suspicious Homicide	yes	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	forensic autopsy
Obvious or Suspicious Suicide:							
- Drug or Poison	***	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	Pulled hair & clipped fingernails in some cases. STAT blood alcohol or urine tox.
- Gunshot (missile retained in body)	***	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Bullet recovery if accessible.
- Gunshot (through and through)	***	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
- Hanging	***	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	
- Carbon Monoxide	***	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	STAT: CO level
Traffic Accidents:							
- Drivers (cause of accident explained)	***	yes	***	yes	no (patrol officer)	yes	STAT: Alcohol level
- Drivers (cause of accident not understood)	yes	yes	***	yes	no (patrol officer)	yes	STAT: Alcohol level
- Pedestrians	***	yes	***	yes	no (patrol officer)	yes	
- Passengers	***	yes	***	yes	no (patrol officer)	yes	

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Prisoner:							
- Death of prisoner in jail, police station, or in custody.	yes	yes	***	yes	yes (from outside agency)	yes	forensic autopsy
- Death of prisoner in hospital for injury or in situation where injury cannot be ruled out.	yes	yes	***	yes	yes (from outside agency)	yes	forensic autopsy
- Death of prisoner in hospital from documented medical problem. Definitely no injury.	***	***	***	yes	yes (from outside agency)	yes	
Burns:							
- Dead at scene.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	STAT: CO level
- Dies in hospital.	***	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	CO level on admission blood sample.
Death at Work:							
- Industrial accident with injury.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Impound suspicious items & machinery. Notify OSHA.
- Apparent natural death at work with no injury.	***	***	***	yes	***	no	

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Death During Surgery or if Consciousness Level Never Improves After Anesthesia:							
- Elective procedures.	yes	***	***	***	***	***	Contact company that regulates anesthesia machines p.r.n.
- Cases where the patient was so severely ill that death was probable without operation.	***	***	no	no	no	no	
Obvious or Suspicious Diagnostic or Therapeutic Misadventures	yes	yes	***	yes	***	yes	Contact regulating agency.
Maternal Deaths due to Criminal or Therapeutic Abortion.	yes	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	
Infant Death:							
- Infant with obvious or suspected injury from accident or abuse.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Contact Social Services.
- Infant or child dying in hospital before definitive diagnosis was made.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Contact Social Services.
- Sudden unexpected death in infancy.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Contact SID Center & Public Health Nurse

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Narcotic or Drug Death:							
- Obvious or suspicious "overdose" death.	***	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	Forensic Autopsy IF comes under Len Bias Law
- Hospitalized addict with medical complication of addiction: pneumonia, hepatitis or bacterial endocarditis.	***	***	no	no	no	yes	
Drowning:							
- Unwitnessed.	yes	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	
- Witnessed.	***	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	
Poisoning: Documented or Suspicious.	yes	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	
Aspiration of Food Choking: - Documented or suspicious.	***	***	***	***	no	***	
Injury from Fall:							
- Serious injury so that death may be reasonably anticipated: e.g. spine, skull, subdural, whether death at scene or hospitalized.	***	***	***	***	***	yes	

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- Less serious injury in elderly person: e.g. hip fracture, wrist fracture with no evidence of head or trunk injury.	***	***	***	***	***	***	Contact nursing home surveyor if accidental death from injury in nursing home.
Other Injuries:							
- Electrocution unwitnessed.	yes	yes	no	yes	***	yes	
- Electrocution witnessed.	***	yes	no	yes	***	yes	
- Asphyxiation.	***	yes	***	***	yes	yes	
- Cutting.	***	yes	***	yes	***	yes	
- Sports Injuries.	***	yes	***	yes	***	yes	
- Climate Related	***	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	
- Radiation Injuries (exclusive of therapy)	***		***	yes	yes	yes	
- Chemical Burns	***	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	
- Scuba Diving Accidents	yes	yes	***	yes	yes	yes	Diver's Alert Network: (919) 684 - 2948 Duke University
Aircraft Accidents:							
- Pilot	yes	yes	yes	yes	F.A.A. or N.T.S.B. & local police agency	yes	F.A.A. or N.T.S.B. may appropriate funds and autopsy kits
- Crew members	***	yes	***	yes		yes	
- Passengers & others	***	yes	***	yes		yes	

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Sudden Unexpected Death:							
- Under age 55 years with no past history of heart disease, heart symptoms, family history, or other serious illness.	yes	yes	***	***	***	***	
- Over age 55 years with history of prior heart disease, heart symptoms, family history, or other serious illness.	***	***	***	***	no	no	
Sudden Unexpected of Young Male Southeast Asians	yes	yes	***	***	***	***	Notify WI - SUDS Agency or Public Health Nurse
Death Involving Police Officer When Officer Could Be Accused of Causing Death	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	Forensic Autopsy
Death of a Police Officer When Incident Causing Death Occurred While Performing Official Duties	yes	yes	yes	***	yes or patrol officer - from outside agency	yes	Forensic Autopsy

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